Be-may confidently be said that for the sest important contribution ever made to the materials for the study of constitutional and political institutions we are in Sebted to the Problems of Greater Britain, by Sir CHARLES DILER (Macmillans). With the exception of the United States, whose exclusion is evidently due to the recent publication of Bryce's "American Commonwealths." every part of the English-speaking world is here subjected to minute and careful investigation from the view-point of the political historian and the sociologist. They who wish to form a definite conception of the present and prospective condition of the Australasian colonies. of the British communities in South Africa of British India, British North America, and the British West Indies, will find in this book an amazing amount of information, either collected at first hand or representing the sifted and verified outcome of as extensive correspondence with local aushorities. What the author has to say about she relations of Canada to the United States has already been noticed in another part of this journal, and his views of Australia may he most usefully discussed when we learn the pecults of the Pederation Conference proposed by Sir Henry Parkes. What we would exsmine at this time is not the author's account of any particular colony or dependency, but his final conclusions touching two questions of general interest, namely, the feasibility of uniting all the British possessions in an imserial confederation, and England's power of Sefending India against Russian aggression.

The advocates of imperial federation put for ward as their chief argument the applicability of such a scheme to imperial defence. There no doubt that some remedy is needed for the esent defencelessness of the British empire By no one has England's inability to protect herself at home or abroad been demonstrated with so much clearness and cogency as it is now by Sir Charles Dilke. We are speaking now not of the defence of India against a Bussian land force, but of the general shielding of the empire against maritime attack The weakness of the British empire is the more inexcusable because the United Kingdom bears a heavier charge for war expenditure than is borne by any other nation. The French repub-He and the German empire each spend annually on war through their military and naval departments about \$186,000,000. The British ampire spends upon its military and naval defence between \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000 a year and upon the British and Indian army alone spends more than the German, and far more than the French army costs. What does England get for this vast outlay of money? Sir Charles Dilke does not hesitate to express his conviction that if a large expeditionary force of picked French or German soldiers were to be landed in England to-morrow, it could not be resisted with any troops now at hand. Nor can England count any longer on possessing an insuperable rampart in the silver streak of sea. Her vulnerability has increased a hundred fold in the last fifty years. Her navy is not equal. nor, when the enlargement now under way is completed, will it be equal to that which would be formed by a combination of the next great est fleet with one of the second rank, and her capital city is so ill protected that she would be forced to rely upon her navy not only to defend her trade, but also to guard her coasts. It is pointed out by the author of this book that the result of the naval manceuvres of 1888 was to cause the Admiralty to abandon the blockade policy and adopt that of masking an enemy's fleet, although under the latter system the protection of distant supply stations and of British commerce would be impracticable. The condition of British naval stations is reviewed in detail, and they are shown to be in most cases unprovided with armaments suited to modern exigencies, and even in the few instances where proper ordnance has been supplied there are no garrisons. In the event of war, to which France should be a party, Sir Charles thinks that it would prove impossible to use the Suez route to India, while two of the main stations on the Cape route, those, name ly, of Siorra Leone and the Mauritius, would be exposed to grave peril from the far superrior French forces quartered in their vicinity. Bir Charles does not, indeed, consider the French position in New Caledonia a serious menace to the Australian colonies; he believes on the contrary, that on the outbreak of was with France the Australians would be able to capture Noumen. He is equally convinced and he frankly avows the conviction, that no military resources now at the disposal of Canada or of the mother country could repel an American invasion of the Dominion.

Sir Charles Dilke does not dispute the capability of the British navy to defend the United Kingdom if it were concentrated in waters Such however, be fatal to the power of initiative, and would involve the abandonment of the British dependencies, the annihilation of the British mercantile marine, and the partial starvation of the British Islands. He is careful it will be noticed, to qualify the extent to which lingland, even in the event of a struggle against the united naval forces of France and Russia would be cut off from her food supplies. He aces that such a war would be the opportunity of the United States, and that England's enemies would be too much afraid of rousing the hostility of the American republic to declare food contraband. He predicts that at the outset of such a contest our law prohibiting the purchase of foreign vessels, if it were still upo the statute book, would be repealed, and that nearly the whole of England's mercantile marine would pass under the American flag. He evidently does not think that the commercia loss thus suffered would ever be retrieved, and as war would also cause the more or less prolonged prostration of British manufactures ese, too might find themselves outstripped by American Industries. Altogether, it seems indisputable that promot and energetic measures are needed to assure imperial defence, but among the many expedients commended Sir Charles does not rocken imperial federation. whose hopelessness is brought out unmistakably in the chapter devoted to the subject.

Federation League held in London in Novem ber, 1889, the President, Lord Rosebery, explained a fatal objection to his own scheme to introducing colonial representatives into the House of Lords, and reiterated a double objection to making them members of the House of Commons. He showed, also, that the extendifficulty, and that an imperial Zollverein, or that is now left of the programme of the authorized expounders of the views of the Imperial held, and that the subject of federation, while not constituting the main topic of discussion. shall not be forbidden in advance. Sir Charles gramme would not meet with the approval of certain colonies, as, for example, Queensland

11.

The proposers of imperial federation have of

inally took. At a meeting of the Imperial

o receded from the ground which they orig-

sion of the Privy Council by the inclusion of agents-general would be a matter of extreme customs union, would be impracticable. All Federationists is a proposal that a conference like that which met in 1837 shall be frequently Dilke points out that even this modest proand New South Wales. In Queensland public opinion has been so much exasperated by the course of the home Government in relation to the New Hebrides and New Guinea that it is almost ripe for a declaration of independence In New South Wales so complete a revolution in popular sentiment has within a few years taken place that the men responsible for the despatch of the Soudan contingent are looked upon with resentment and distrust. The author reminds us that when Mr. Parkin, the travelling crater of the League, spoke not long ago in Sydney his appeals met only with derision, and a resolution was moved by a member of the upper House of the New South Wales Partiament, and seconded by a member of the lower House, to the effect that the interests of Australia pointed not to imperial federation, but to an independent nationality. It is true that in | mon of all arms, consisting of British and

Canada Sir John Macdonald calls himself a riend of imperial federation, but as he is also a high protectionist he cannot assent to the ustoms union, which is a fundamental feature of the scheme. It is the hope rather than the belief of Sir Charles Dilke that after the expected formation of an Australian confederacy it may be possible for the various parts of the British empire to come to some agreement with regard to the common defence, or, at all events, concerning such minor matters as postage, telegraphs and cables, patents, currency, and weights and measures. But a close league, involving a common revenue, common control of foreign affairs, decision as to peace and war, and the conduct of military operations, he regards as a dream. The proposal of Sir Julius Vogel that England should announce to her colonies that secession would not be permitted is dismissed with the remark that the time has gone by when the mother country would attempt to coerce Canada or Australia, should either of those great dependenctes pronounce for independence. Even as regards the secondary questions

above enumerated. Sir Charles thinks that no agreement is to be expected until Englishmen learn to treat colonial opinion with more respect and deference. At present the colonies are in some particulars treated worse than foreign powers. Few persons, he says, seem to notice that England is not in the habit of permitting the colonies freely to legislate upon all matters which concern their own home affairs. We are reminded that marriage with a deceased wife's sister has only after a struggle been allowed in Canada and Australia, and that a recent colonial divorce bill was vetoed because inconsistent with home ideas. The fact is also recalled that the wife of a distinguished agent-general, legally married though she was according to colonial law, was not long since treated in England as if her marriage had been an English one, and consequently illegal. On the other hand, the Minister of a foreign court, who was in England at the same time, and whose wife was his own niece, which was legal according to the laws of his own country, had no difficulty in securing the reception of his wife at court. Naturally such discriminations do not tend to intensify colonial affection for the mother country.

HII. Although the question of Indian defence may be considered a part of the general problem of imperial defence, it is examined separately and with peculiar anxiety by Sir Charles Dilke. Only in Asia and in North America is the British empire conterminous with the possessions of another great power which could bring to bear all its military resources without crossing the ocean. On the exposure of the Canadian Dominion to American invasion but little stress s laid by the author of this book, both because the United States evince no desire to attack their northern kinsmen, and because he thinks that annexation could not and would not be resisted by the mother country. On the other hand, he shares the nearly unanimous opinion that a contest between Russia and Great Britain in Asia is unavoidable, and that a loss of India would involve not only the destruction of British trade, but a general dissolution of the British empire. Accordingly he looks upon Indian defence as the most urgent and momentous problem which England has to solve. To the question whether Russia could invade India, Sir Charles Dilke's answer is that she could not do it successfully, starting from her present frontier. She might have done it before 1885, but she cannot do it now. Many weighty reasons are assigned, however, for the declaration that she must not be permitted to advance her outposts any nearer, whether on the north or the northeast of Afghanistan. Were she once allowed to occupy Balkh and Herat she would have positions far more favorable for attack. He is also convinced that the Afghans, instead of being embittered against the Russians by a renewed advance. would be alienated from Great Britain by its refusal or inability to keep its pledge to support the present Ameer and to guarantee the integrity of its possessions. Were the Russians at Herat they could not, he thinks, be prevented from acquiring ascendancy at Cabul, as they would be lavish of gifts and promises to secure Afghan cooperation, which in the judgment of most military students of the situation would turn the scale. They would also, in Sir Charles's opinion, set on foot intrigues against British authority in the independent States of British India. The conclusion is expressed with great earnestness that the first attempt of Russia to push forward her frontiers toward Balkh or Herat must be immediately met with armed resistance. This is understood to be the decision reached by the Anglo-Indian Government and by the Salisbury Cabinet, and in vigorously supporting it Sir Charles apparently speaks for all the Liberals except the peace section which advocates a partition of Afghanistan between Russia and Great Britain. Assuming that it is the settled policy of Eng land to defend the present frontiers of Afghan istan, and that this determination is wellknown to Russia, the latter power when she resolves to move is likely to make not a slight tentative advance, but an invasion aimed directly at British India. It is expected that, while smaller forces are despatched from Maimena and Balkh against Cabul, and perhapsthrough Cashmere against the British arsenal at Rawul Pindi, the main column will proceed by the way of Herat and Candahar toward the Khyber Pass and other defiles south of it. As to the best method of withstanding such aggressive demonstrations. there was long a difference of opinion

tilly both Quetta and Peshawur, which would also, Sir Charles thinks, have been a blunder, because it would have compelled an army already inadequate to fight upon two lines. The plan finally adopted by the Calcutta lovernment is to fight with the main army on the Quetta line, resisting on the Khyber line only sufficiently to delay the Russians until they can be attacked in flank. The arsenal at Rawul Pinds, on the left bank of the Indus, is, however, to be defended in order to protect the railway leading to Labore from an attack by way of Cashmero. As a base of the main army's operations. Quetta, whose position is naturally almost impregnable, has been strongly fortified, and has been surrounded by a network of military roads and rallways, including a broadgauge double track to the frontier at Chaman. It should also be mentioned that material is ready at the front for extending promptly the rallway to Candahar on the outbreak of war. In a word, the policy which has prevailed at Calcutta is that the defence of India must be effected by taking the offensive with a field army, and that the less money spent on fortifleations beyond the construction of a suitable base) the better. The plan of an offensive campaign starting from Quetta has this, too, in its favor, that supplies and reenforcements may be brought thither more speedily from Kurrachee than they could be forwarded from Bombay to Peshawur.

among English strategists at Calcutta and

watch the eastern outlets of the passes

and to keep the main Anglo-Indian forces

in the plains of the Punjab; but this involved

an abandonment of the whole right bank of

the Indus without a serious struggle, besides

the maintenance in peace times of large garri

sons in unbealthy valleys. The second suggest

tion was to fortify the whole length of the new

frontier between India and Afghanistan, but

this, besides costing a great deal of money.

would have required a larger allotment of

troops to garrison duty than the Anglo-Indian

army could afford. A third proposal was to for

London. The first plan was to

IV.

What forces would be disposable on both sides for field fighting in Afghanistan? So long as the Russians are not permitted to push their railway from the Caspian beyond their present frontier, they could not, in the author's ordalon, owing to difficulties of transportation, bring to Candahar an army exceeding 60,000 men. The smaller expeditions moving from the north would scarcely comprise collectively more than 20,000 men, who would be unable to take part in the decisive action. On her part, England could place at Caudahar 55,000

是一种种的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们就是一个人的,我们 picked native troops. No infantry regiments from the Bombay or Madras Presidencies or from Bengal proper would be used in the front line. They are pronounced entirely incompetent to cope with Russian soldiers. On the other hand, the Sikhs, the Goorkhas, some of the Punjab Mohammedans, and the Afrids are said by Sir Charles Dilke to be thoroughly trustworthy on the score of steadiness and courage. The Indian cavalry would, he thinks, be fully equal on the score of quality to the Cossacks and Turcomans. on whom the Russians would mainly rely, besides being vastly preponderant in numbers. For the effective conduct of war against Russia in Afghanistan an abolition of the Presidency system and a concentration of the three organizations under the commander-in-chief would, in the author's judgment, be indispensable. Such a concentration has been repeatedly urged by the Calcutta Government, but it has been hitherto impossible to procure the assent of the Ministry at home. To the Presidency system are attributed the difficulties and serious dangers encountered by the English in their last Afghan campaign and the embarrassments to which they have been recently subjected in Upper Burmah. Sir Charles also deems it of the utmost moment to abolish the armies maintained by the Nizam of Hyderabad and by other semi-independent princes in British In-dia-armies which are now said to amount in the aggregate to 350,000 men. These troops, he says, should be disbanded, and in lieu of the expenditure which they now Impose on the great vassals, the latter should be called upon to make large contributions to the Calcutta treasury for the general defence. Suppose that in their first pitched battle with

the Russians the English should be defeated. Such a contingency must not, Sir Charles says, be for a moment contemplated. It would involve the immediate and wholesale desertion of the Afghans and the tribesmen on the borders of the Punjab, the demoralization and disaffection of a large proportion of the native regiments, the revoit of the feudatory States, and in all likelihood the ruin of British rule in India. If the Russians are beaten, they can make a second venture on another and perhaps more propitious occasion, but it is the tragic feature of England's situation that she cannot afford a defeat.

We are reminded that, when the English were surprised and worsted at Maiwan d during the last Afghan war, the Bombay troops and a part of the Bengal army were dispirited and there were signs of mutiny among the native States. This too, although England's ability to wipe out the memory of that reverse was universally recognized and was to be soon splendidly demonstrated by Gen. Roberts.

What counter blow could England deal against Russia in Asia? Sir Charles regards as inconceivably fatuous the notion that Russia could be successfully attacked in Turkestan or barred out of northern Persia. He sees that it is a reproach to the character of British rule that the Russians should be more firmly planted in Tashkent and Samarcand. and even in Sarakhs and Mery, than the English are in India: but he has no doubt about the fact. The one useful ally that England might have in Asia is China, and Sir Charles Dilke is disposed to rate very highly the value of Chinese cooperation. It is true that owing to the distance of Pekin from Kashgar the war between Russia and England would probably be over before an efficient Chinese force could operate in Turkestan. But China could level a deadly stroke at Viadivostock, the Russian naval station in the north Pacific, and in the effort to parry it the strength of Russia would, in the author's opinion, be wasted away, as it was in the Crimea. The situation however, on the northwestern frontier will be revolutionized when the Trans-Siberian Railway is finished, and Russia will then be impregnable in Asia.

Sir Charles Dilke tells us that, except a against a foreign enemy, the military strength of the Anglo-Indian Government is scarcely more serviceable to British rule than the perpetual courtesy, cheeriness, and good humor of the old Indian Generals in command. The personal popularity of Sir Frederick Roberts is particularly great with the native troops, as well as with the British soldiers. It seems that even in the remote parts of India the influence of his name with the natives is noteworthy. The author recounts how once in the neigh borhood of the Khojak pass supplies were demanded from the head men of the villages in the name of the "Commander-in-Chief." They were not forthcoming, however, until an officer happened to say something about 'Roberts," when the chiefs broke in to say in chorus that if "General Lobbet Sahib" was at hand the supplies should be provided. If the Anglo-Indian army could always be commanded by such men as Roberts there would be less to fear from the steady approach of Russia, but soldiers of the Clive and Welling-M. W. H. ton type are rare.

Three American Stories.

Three stories, varying in the degree of their interest, but all remarkable for original imagination, keen humor, and delicate and charming style, have been published within a comparatively recent period by Mr. Lange Buyer. It does not seem as if in any of these stories Mr. Brace had been burdened by the old-fashioned profundity of purpose which was so unfortunate oftentimes. There is nothing of the oppressive five-act and three-volume character in his narrative. It is cheerful and light stepping, as if his muse rejoiced. If there is an extraordinarily solemn meaning. It is delightfully hidden: and apparently he is not in the least addicted to the ultimate analysis of small human motives. Two of his stories are satires, founded upon a text, and having an undoubted moral, and the third is a novel with so occult a matter as hypnotism in it; but there is no page in all the three which is not lively and comprehensible.

Paradise (Funk & Wagnalls) was the first written of Mr. Bryce's stories. The others are better examples of the author's abilities, but "Paradise" has much to recommend it; a propoition attested, perhaps, by the fact of the book being in its lifth edition. The story is a satire. founded upon the text of easy Chicago divorces. Anybody that pleases may draw the moral that easy divorce has its objectionable features, and anybody that pleases may set the moral foremost in an estimation of the tale; but it is likely that the wit and the rare whimsicalities of fancy contained in the volume will be its first recommendation to most people. The idea which has taken possession of the mind of Mrs. Pampero, the heroine of this tale, is a whimsicality of considerable interest to begin with. She is a lovely young woman wedded to a bald, portly, middle-aged, everyday gentleman of Wail street. She is beautiful intel lectual, charmingly emotional; he the absolutely unembellished expression of common place. She is ever in pursuit of an ideal; if he can sleep, eat, and keep his feet dry his soul finds itself in a condition to enjoy repose. These being the respective characters of the two. Mrs. Pampero conceives that her husband is too good for her, and sets about his liberation from the heavy matrimonial bonds which drag him down. She proceeds upon her own unsupported conviction and responsibility; goes down town into a vast office building in pursuit of A. P. Brooms, a divorce lawyer, whose advertisement she has read in a newspaper gets by mistake into the office of another lawyer, a briefless, rich, handsome, and romantic one named Adrian Axel; is advised by Mr. Axel to go to Paradise, which is Mr. Bryce's book name for Chicago; and goes thither, Mr. Axel by the merest accident taking passage upon the same train. The story consists of the experience in Paradise of this pair; largely of their conversation, revealing his large hearted gentlemanly pessimism and her innocent but very lively sentimentalism; and of the adventures of Mr. Pampero, who, being without the least sense of his superiority to Mrs. Pampero, and having not the slightest desire to be rid of the burden of his wife, coes off atter her, and on reaching Paradise, finds her with little difficulty though he meets with considerable ingenious and inter-

esting bother on the way; and a rounded and

satisfactory finish is achieved by the marriage

ter. This sister, it may be said, by the way, is a well-balanced, capable person. Here is a passage describing an incident of her journey to Paradise with Mr. Pampero in the pursuit of Mrs. Pampero:

"How much skill and practice it takes to enter one of these curtained sepulchres successfully! Becky, when the time came for retiring, accomplished the feat with the sparkling grace with which she did everything-a twist-a pivot-turn-a light laugh-a pair of little boots with a fringe of white mystery disappearing within the curtains. Then a rustle as of the shaking off of garments, the snap of unbooking-a suppressed sigh of relief-and a moment afterward the same little pair of moroccos, footless, empty, but ever shapely, were deposited by a dainty hand upon the passageway floor.

The book has its crudities and its occasional lapses from absolute good taste, but it con-

There is more strength in Mr. Bryce's next story, A Dream of Conquest (Lippincotts), It was, according to this tale, a misfortune of the United States Government that there should have been crowding and a scramble for supper at a ball given by the Chinese Legation in Washington some little time ago, before the era of our new navy. The bill of exclusion against Oriental laundrymen and the anti-Celestial violence of the Pacific slope hoodlums might have passed without official notice on the part of the Chinese empire; but the breach of etiquette involved in the snatching of things at supper was a matter of far more serious import. A man. squat. yellow, and slant eyed, but of towering and unscrupulous ambition. stood ready to seize the unhappy opportunity. Wang-Chi-Poo. millionaire mandarin of the

second rank, being moved by the most pulssant desires of his soul to obtain the yellow button of the first rank, determined to secure it by an act of glory. Government in Russia is said to consist of military despotism, tempered by assassination; in China, Mr. Bryce observes, government is carried on by competitive examination, tempered by purchase. By direct application to the Emperor of the power of the alternative of competitive examination, Wang-Chi-Poo obtained leave to conduct a fleet of Chinese ironclads against the United States of America. To be specific, he paid 2,000,000 chop dollars for the privilege. His venfrom one point of view was a good deal of a hazard; from another not so so. He had never been either at sea or in battle; but he had learned from his private secretary. Taonsu, who had spent several years at school in Hartford, of the utterly defenceless condition of this country, and it seemed to him that the yellow button, and incidentally the very desirable ennoblement of his grandmother, were to be counted upon

with certainty. The event proved the entire accuracy of his judgment. The Chinese fleet, after a roundabout course, pursued in order to deceive Congress, struck the American coast at Key West. and engaged the giant fortress there, garrisoned at the time by Sergeant McKenna. The Sergeant's supply of powder had recently been cut off by a Commission whose members drew a salary of \$5,000 each, and employed a secre tary for \$2,000, and a stenographer for \$1,500, The Sergeant was crippled, but he fired one great blast, which sank instantly the Terror, a newly built United States war vessel of which much had been expected, although it wrought no harm whatever upon the Chinese Wang-Chi-Poo picked out of the sea three struggling Americans, two gentlemen and a lady, and, after blowing Sergeant McKenna's fort to pieces, proceeded to New York.

The rescued Americans were Mr. and Mrs. McFlusterer, fashionable New Yorkers, and Mr. Puncherry, the designer and builder of the Terror. They found the Chinese flagship interesting and peculiar. A number of articles of European and American manufacture were employed for decoration, but not always with understanding. Pictures were hung upside down, or on their beam ends, so to speak; a Prench clock was set with its face to the wall. and a nickel-ornamented stove, made in Sing Sing perhaps, was set ostentatiously upon a table, as we set rare foreign vases. The interest of the three Americans in these matters was however, in a measure, sup-pressed by circumstances. The gentlemen were fastened to the buikhead by ringbolts and chains; and Wang-Chi-Poo tickled the lady playfully under the chin with his queue, ogled her outrageously, and offered through his interpreter to carry her back to China and take her riding in a gold and ivory palanguin.

There was some flurry in New York when the destination of the hostile fleet became known. The militia and the Knights of Labor were called out, and the police were recolorced by the appointment of a number of special constables. Rich people began to transfer themselves and their effects out of town. Fifth avbecame a stream of valuable pictures. silverware, and statues moving off in every form of vehicle in search of an asylum. Not a few of these fine things were lost in the hurry and confusion. The author himself bought a priceless Jules Breton for ten cents of a bootblack, who told him it had fallen out of a cart into the gutter. Cab fares rose to a figure astonishing even in this city. One cabman was said to have received \$200 for driving a bronze copy of the Venus of Milo beyond the city limits. Babies were carted off with the brie-à-Many people, however, did not move their children or effects-people that lived down in the Five Points, and had no effects to move-people that lived in tenements even nigher than the cab fares, but had no cab fares to give. The poople in general, who lived in the crowded purlieus of the great city, having no works of art. did not move them; and, having nowhere to go themselves, they remained where they are, with their offspring."

The two American gentlemen on the Chinese flagship were chained by the foot. They did not like it, and said as much, but it was explained to them that that method of restraint was highly honorable. The still superior honor of incarceration in a bamboo cage was offered to them, but they hotly declined it. As the Chinese fleet draw near to Sandy Hook the American navy came out to oppose it, but Wang-Chi-Poo refused an engagement, With Oriental courtesy he waved his hand, and sailing peacefully through the thick of the American squadron, left it to perish in a squall which he observed gathering on the edge of the horizon. The fate of the city was several times postponed by circumstances which the Americans, clever as they were, had not at all included in their reckoning. The sending down of the metropolitan pleasure fleet, the Bristol, Day Dream, Mary Powell, and the rest. manned with the bravest sort of patriots, resulted only in the demolition of the patriots and of the fleet; and an ouslaught of fire ships and the pouring forth against the invaders of and the pouring forth against the invaders of a sea of burning oil were no more successful; but when the Coney Island elephant burst upon the vision of Wang-Chi-Poo in the gray of the moraing he was within one of turning tails and putting back to China under the highest obtainable steam pressure. His courage recient also when he caught sight for the first time of the colossal bronze woman on Bedlow's Island, but his heathen luck came to his assistance at every point, and the city lay at last coundedly at this mercy. His guns began to bellow, and Trinity steeple and Cyrus Field's building rocked and tumbled. The militial did what they could, but they had been provided with Spring-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in uskets, and their work was hampered. The ire of Wang-field cartridges for their Remitigation in the finest formations they had ever beheld. They brought out some of the specimens, which they had been forced to break off in order to get through the openings into the different classifier of pass, and there is no doubt that the opening at the locality indicates that for a distance of two and con-half miles are distance of two and con-half miles a sea of burning oil were no more successful

of Mr. Axel to Mrs. Pampero's unmarried sisflagship, a belching and reverbe swinging upon the East River tide; and as she swept past the Fulton Ferry slip Wang-Chi-Poo darted up to her main truck with the agility of a monkey, and, leaping upon the Brooklyn Bridge, stood there, a Macaulay New Zealander for New York purposes, grinning and fanning himself.

There are no dull pages in this production. It is as vivid as the Battle of Dorking, and much more witty than the realistic English story. No doubt there are plenty of wise peoble who are prepared to say that it all could never have happened. Maybe not. Very likely Mrs. McFlusterer and the incident of the nickeldecorated stove are not altogether plausible. But at the same time if a fleet of Chinese ironclads had wished to attack this port a few years ago. It is hard to see how they could have been diverted from their purpose by Secor Robeon's navy, or by anything else in our possession except the Coney Island elephant and the vast copper woman in the upper bay.

The last of Mr. Bryce's stories which we have consider, the Romance of an Alter Ego (Brentano), is a more extensive and a much more ambitious effort than the two we have already noticed. For cumulative interest, for the presentation of manifold wonders, whose explanation is skilfully withheld until the effect upon the mind of the reader amounts to fascination, this book is to be classed with that most absorbing story of perfect plot. The Moonstone." It must, however, in candor be said that the conclusion of "An Alter Ego" is not satisfactory. Comparison with Wilkle Collins's great story becomes disastrous to Mr. Bryce's tale when it reaches the point of revelation. This is the greater pity, because it seems altogether probable that the marked falling off in power toward the conclusion of Mr. Bryce's work is in a great measure due to a sudden yielding of patience There is every appearance of a hurried and careless termination to a story the great part of which must have been constructed with the utmost care, and which is certainly a model of sustained interest in all but its conclusion.

A mistaken identity and hypnotism are the

main divisions in the manifold plot of " An Alter Fgo." The narrator of the story, Aaron Simoni, coming from the West, enters this city oppressed with a presentiment of cvil. From a crush of vehicles in Broadway he rescues a young woman, an utter stranger to him, who excitedly claims him as her husband, and faints in his arms under the violence of her emotions. She is Edna, the daughter of Mr. Dalzelle, an importer of fine wines. Several years previously she was married in Newport to a man named Fitzamble, who unaccountably disappeared on the day of his marriage and she and her father unite in the positive opinion that Aaron Simoni is this man. The case gets into a court of justice, where a jury awards Simoni to the young woman. A multiplicity of complications arises thereafter. Numerous mysterious attempts are made upon the life of Simoni. He is knocked on the head on a ferryboat, and floats off dazed on an East River tide full of a thought that he entertained in his childhood, namely, that the stars are the little children of the moon. He awakes from a subsequent obliviou to find Edna Dalzelle administering medicine to him. He cherishes the vision of her, and waits eagerly for her to come again, but when the medicine next falls due it is her father who appears to administer it. don't know of anything more disagreeable,' Simoni chronicles, "than expecting a woman in a pale blue velvet tea gown, puffed with lace-a woman that you have prepared to receive, though it be with dignity, if not with coldness-I know of nothing more disagreesble, I say, than, expecting an apparition of such leveliness, to find her father take her place." He recovers and falls in love with the daughter, pursues her with an arder which threatens to be unscrupulous at times, admits and denies that he is Fitzamble with weak alernation, and discovers that Edna is a hypnotic subject. A fat woman, carrying a faint aroma of alcohol, Rebecca Seaton by name, a professional mesmerist and clairvoyant, has absolute centrol of the girl. Associated with Rebecca is a man of science, a zealot in the investigation of hypnotic phenomena. With Rebecca's assistance houses Edna in his experiments. Under the hypnotic influence she walks the streets in the character of Aspasia, sings an indecent song in a Bowery concert hall, and attempts suicide and murder. Here certainly is material, and through

nine-tenths of the tale Mr. Bryce has employed it with remarkable skill and power. There are several blemishes, the more striking that they are contained in so fine a setting. He punsupon the words money and matrimony. He undertakes dialect with the most unfortunate results. There is a remarkable outburst of horror over the idea of twin brothers being married to the same girl. But it would be unjust to do more than merely mention these With the absorbing plot is associated a deriptive style at once graceful and brilliant His local pictures and comments are full of intorest. He calls the Fourth avenue horse-car tunnel "Ammonia Hollow," and wonders why the great bulk of travel in the city being up and down, the cross streets should be so much more numerous than the longitudinal avenues Simoni cannot sleep at Coney Island The great hotels are "mere sounding boards, and if any one so much as lets a sneeze escape him In the attic, it goes vibrating and recchoing till In the attic, it goes vibrating and receding till it reaches the cellar." On the shores of Long Island Sound he finds superior conditions:

"Looking between the trees toward the Sound the sun was just sinking in a blaze of glory, painting up the sails of passing vessels with radiant colors, and turning the waters into one vast field of liquid gold. Looking shoreward the land gradually ascended and rolled away in gently undulating fields into the soft distance, while the whole face of nature was suffused with that sudden flush of serene and more than earthly beauty to which we sometimes find a faint counterpart in the faces of these that die in harmony with Ood. There always seems to me a peculiar solemnity in the beauty of evenide that raises man nearer to his Creator. Even as a child I used to recognize it, and attribute it to the blessing lie was breathing over the departing day."

The description of the incidents in the "House of Blazes" on the New Jersey flets, where Simonli is held a prisoner by Anarchists, and where Eina, hypotized, endeavors to stab him to death, marks the turning point in the quality of the book. Though it is in part a description of surprising power, the power is not sustained. But the "Romanee of an Alter Eno" remains a wonderful story in spite of any and all of its defects. it reaches the collar." On the shores of Long

A CAVE OF MINERALS.

Wonderful Discovery in Comberland Coun

ty. Pennsylvania. CARLISLE, Pa., March 15 .- A cave of minerals has been discovered about five and a half miles from Mechanicsburg, and on the farm of the Hon, H. G. Moser, now worked by Mr. Koller. The cave is 110 feet below the surface of the ground and was discovered while quarrying for limestone, the opening being found by the men working in the quarry. The opening being reported to Capt. C. E. Brindle, who is interested in geology and chemistry, imme-

PORMS WORTH READING. Whyt

From the Indep Why do we suffer! Why should God, Who loves His creatures scourge He lath the right: we need the rod; That is enough for us to know.

We search and question, to what end? No providence hath made it plain. The influe cannot comprehend The influe mystery of pain.

Shall earth worms, burrowing in the soil, Aspire to gauge creation's plan? Or -trive to measure, mid their toil, The strange complexities of man? As well may we earth born and low.
Stretch upward from our mole bill cled.
And ask, with daring front to know.
The wherefore and the why of God!

From the Academy.
So do they love, Emilia and her lord.
That neither knows the others faults at all
Nave by confession, which may scarce befall
Because some atm shiftipates the word. Nor do their virtues larger scope afford Of self delight or knowledge mutual. Of self delight or knowledge mutu-since each believes their own too w To live unaided by the other's hoard. Thus they abide, in childlike ignorance

MARGARET J. PRESTOR

diber owe the other mught of the if the one baws anything of good capt the other. Oh, most blessed chance, resubtle sweet than art, that hath this skill clend two souls in such beautinde? The Schoolmistress,

When the presty country schoolma'am isn't trying to guide her little flock on wisdoms way, whe is very likely to be occupying Herself in manufacture of crorhet. Or tatting or embroid-ry, or sawing, or some other useful ornamental tiling. For "its rumored 'round the district that she's going to be married in the early days of spring.

From the Boston Pilot. A glitter of green in the somight dancing.
The air of an old song soft and sweet.
And the measured murch of men advancing
in brave array through the crowded street;
Oh: Emeraid lale in the waste of waiers.
What lender thoughts do these things portray
To the owner were of thy some and daughters.
With each return of Saint Patrick a Day!

St. Patrick's Day-1890.

They see the spots where in youth's first limbes. They tearned that love which they bear thee still; They learned that love which they bear thee still; They learned the songs that the larks and thrushes. Were wont at morn to the skies to trill. Through the tlefes so often they rambied over. In happy chiabbood again they stray, and gather their bundles of three-icafed clover, To wear in bonor of Patrick's Day.

Eay that such dreams are but flights of fancy,
What does it matter to them whose gaze
The magic interest of necromancy
Delights with visions of vanished days!
Which linker here in the city's shadows
White the proud procession moves away,
But whose hearts are off in the Irish meadows
In search of shamrocks this Patrick's Day.
William D. Kellt.

The Auctioneer's Gift.

From the Fantes Blade.

The anotioneer leaped on a chair, and bold and loud and He poured his cataract of words, just like an auctioneer. An auction sale of furniture, where some hard mort Was bound to get his money back, and pay his lawyer's fee.

res.

A humorist of wide renown, this doughty auctioneer.

His joking raised the foul gudaw, and brought the answering jeer.

He scattered round his jests, like rain, on the unjust and like just.

Sam Nieeman said he "laffed so much he thought thet he would bust."

He knocked down bureaus, beds, and stoves, and clocks and chandeliers. And a grand pisso, which he swore would "last a thou-sand years". He rattied out the crockery, and sold the silverware: At last they passed him up to soil a little baby's chair. "How much! how much! come, make a bid: is all your money spent!"
And then a chear, facetious wag came up and bid, "Inc.cent."
Just then a sad-faced woman, who stood in silence there.

Broke down and cried, "My baby's chair! My poor, dead baby's chair."

"Here, madam, take your baby's chair." said the soft-"I know its value all too well, my baby died last year: And if the owner of the chair, our friend, the mort gages Objects to this proceeding, let him send the bill to me!" Gone was the tone of raillery: the humorist auctioneer Turned shamefaced from his audience, to brush away a tear:
The laughing crowd was awed and still, no tearless eye was there When the weeping woman reached and took her little baby's chair.

> The Last Leaf. From the Boston Fraveller.
> We see the patriarch still
> Briskly treading Beacon Hill
> Full of joy.
> For his heart is pure and glad
> As the good Sir Galahad,
> Or a boy.

By the tea cups when he cat. The unrivalled Autocrat. He would some day cling, ah me! Last leaf on the lunely tree Bent with snow!

Had he felt and had he known He would wear the bays alone. Still I hold Never would have blanched his cheek, Still his harp had blessed the weak. Charmed the old. His the gospel of good cheer, Doctor's art and poet's ear Joined to bless; Heart with human kind stouch, Like the Master healing such in the press

Writing no impassioned screeds To uphold a party's creeds Or fix wrongs: Broader than his Brahmin caste, He has won the world at last With his songs.

Still he walks the Boston streets.
And he smites at those he meets
As he roams:
Ah 'welove that gray haired man,
Grasp his hand dear, if you can;
That's our Holmes!

That's our Holmes ! A Panuces. From the Wathington Capital
There is one who's truly jucky:
Its the man who never freis;
Who is shilling, my and plucky
At each evil that besets.
Ever pausing grief to borrow,
All his woes are puffs of air;
Ile diamisses every sorrow
With an

1 Don't

He is proof 'gainst the mutations
of that mischief-maker Time
He will meet dark machinations
With indifference sublime.
What's the use of roll and burry!
Wherefore daily with despair,
When a man can slience worry
With an 1 Don't Care

Shun the draught that's madly merry,
Misery lorks amid the lees;
Squander not with hand unchary
Moments due to caim and ease.
If by Fortune you are jitted.
Call her wanton, false though fair;
Cast saids her roses wilted
With an I Don't Care

Prom Puck.
I thought I'd tell my story
In fashion such as this.
I thought I would, because—
Recause I thought I would. I fell in love and married The woman I adored: I'm married—well, because— Because I fell in love in happy, for I've got a son, The idol of my life: I'm a father now, because— Because I've got a son My life is not a failure—
My married life, I mean—
With me no failure marriage is,
Because it's a success

Because-Well, Just Because.

I do not claim these lines of mine Are either wise or witty. I do not claim it, well because— Because you'd not believe it. I don't beli-we the editor Will give this space at all: I don't believe he will because— I don't believe he will Bummers.

Ah! lots of bummers in this world Of high and low degree. ome bum within the sphere of wealth And some in poverty; Fome lummers wear a coronet And some in rags are drest. If laciness gives happiness The bummer should be blest

Some have natural talent for The bile, bumming art,
And some you know are quite self made That play the bummer's part You'll find them in all ranks of life, In Congress, church val And when the year begins to warm They roost beneath the moon.

A kind of nature's gentlemen They were not born to work; A losfing, independent mind, And lany as a Tork: drone, a modern parasite
Upon the social plan. Can legislators give us laws To cure the bumming man

A modern drone, or parasite, No, there were hums of old: Each age has had its hummers Within the human ford. No matter whether high, or low They are a social svii.
For in their social they love to bum Just like their sire, the devil.

JAMES L. MIGHOLSON

THE FIGHTING OF THE FULURA The New Conditions Introduced Intel Was

Twelve years have passed since the last great European war. During this period there have been campaigns in Africa and Asia in which England, France, and Italy have taken part; and in the Balkans a brief struggle has occurred between two minor States. Servia and Bulgaria. But we must go back to the last war of Russia and Turkey for a prolonged conflict between leading powers. Changes so great have meanwhile been made in the weapons of war that even tactical formations have had to be altered to conform to them. The magazine gun for infantry, smokeless powder, rapid-fire field pieces, and high explosives as the bursting charges of shells are among the innovations which have imposed new conditions on the art of war. For our country the contrast between the new and the old must be still more marked, inasmuch as the civil war ended a quarter of a century ago. and since then we have remained almost stationary in military appliances, the chief gain being a somewhat improved infantry rifle.

Our civil war, as Col. Henry L. Abbot of the engineers says in a contribution to the Forum, was fought with the rifled musket of 1855. which was a muzzle-loader of 0.58 inch calibre. It had a 500-grain bullet which, with a charge of 60 grains of powder, obtained an initial velocity of 960 feet. Its penetration, measured by the number of pine planks it could traverse. each an inch thick, placed 1's inches part, was eleven at 200 yards, six at 600, and three at 1.000. The highest point of the trajectory was 20 inches above the line of sight at 200 yards range and 40 inches at 300 yards. That our present service arm, the Springfield rifle of 1873, is an advance on that of 1855, will be obvious from these comparisons:

obvious from these comparisons:

"It is a breech-loader, calibre 0.45 inch. The
405-grain bullet, with a charge of 70 grains of
black powder, has an initial velocity of about
1.330 feet. Its penetration in pine planks at
500 yards is nearly 9 inches. The highest
point of the trajectory at 220 yards range is 15
inches; at 550 yards range, 11 feet; and at 1,100
yards range, 60 feet, above the line of sight.
The dangerous horizontal space at 500 yards
range is 200 feet; at 800 yards, 30 feet; and at
1,050 yards, 75 feet. But great as is this advance since our war, the weapon is now antiquated in European estimation."

Smokeless powder is, according to Col. Ab-

Smokeless powder is, according to Col. Abbot, "certain soon to supersede the old 'amiliar black powder" in small arms, in machine and rapid-fire guns, and permaps in field and siege artillery. Just now the new device is too apt to spoil in changes of temperature and storage, and some varieties of it had to be given up on this account. Forms of compression and other treatment, too, have, it is said been recently discovered, by which the ordinary black powder can be made to give a greatly increased initial velocity. Be this as it may, powder has greatly advanced in effectiveness since the close of our war, while the change wrought by the magazine rifle, now almost universally adopted in some form in Europe, may be seen by these statistics:

Europe, may be seen by these statistics:

"The usual calibre is about 0.31 inch. The bullet, weighing about 230 grains, is of lead; but to resist the high powder pressure and the friction developed in the hore. It is eased in steel, copper, or nickel. The initial velocity exceeds 2.000 feet, giving at 7.50 yards range a dangerous horizontal space of about 360 feet, Steel plates 1.2 inches thick have been pierced at short range, and 15 inches of solid oak at 220 yards. The magazines, according to pattern, contain from live to eleven cartridges, which can be discharged at the rate of one shot per second."

In field artillers we find breech-leading rifes.

In field artillery we find breech-loading rifles with projectiles weighing 18 pounds, and an initial velocity of 1,500 feet, taking the place of our muzzle-loading cannon of 1861, with 10pound projectiles and a velocity of 1,232 feet; and since, as Col. Abbot says, "the destructive energy varies as the product of the square of the velocity by the weight, these figures indicate startling progress," Mechanical rangefinders now increase the precision of the first shots of artillery, although, to be sure, this is counterbalanced by a corresponding facility on the enemy's part in picking off the cannoncers and horses by his sharpshooters. Machine guns of many kinds have also been introduced. the Maxim type adding automatic zervice. The rapid-firing cannon is a great advance:

The rapid-firing cannon is a great advance:

"The fundamental idea is to extend the use of metallic ammunition, directing the aim from the shoulder and firing by trigger, to gurs of calibres large enough to be properly classed as cannon. Success is already assured for the 3-pounder, the 5-pounder, and the 36-pounder, and taverable reports are made of trials with still larger sizes.

"Thus the service 4.7-inch rapid-firing gun of Lord Armstrong throws, with 12 pounds of powder, a projectile weighing 36 pounds with a muzzle velocity of 2.478 feet per second, or a projectile weighing 45 pounds with 2.250 feet per second, giving in either case a muzzle energy exceeding 1.500 foot-tons, a perforation of wrought from armor plates of over 10 inches, and a rate of fire of 12 unalmed shots per minute. The gum weighs about 4.600 pounds."

The powder in this calibre is contained in a solid drawn-brass cartridge case, which can be used ten times without re-forming. In the six-inch calibre the charge is separated nto the projectile and the case, the latter being about 35 or 40 pounds of Chilworth, which is nearly smokeless. The projectile weighs nearly 100 pounds. and with a muzzie velocity of 2.340 feet, and a muzzie energy of 3,797 foot-tons, a perforation of 14.7 inches of wrought iron is obtained, at a rate of six shots per minute. Hotchkiss, Grusen, and others make guns of smaller calibres than the six-inch Armstrong. yet throwing projectiles of more than 30 pounds, and distinguished by simplicity in breech mechanism, rapidity of fire, and more

convenient mountings.

Another great advance is the ability to throw destructive charges of high explosives from ordinary powder guns:

destructive charges of high explosives from ordinary powder guns:

"The following are results already reached in official trials in Italy and Germany: 5.9-inch guns can safely throw shells containing 2.7 pounds of wet gun cotton with an initial velocity of 1.311 feet per second to a distance of 5.468 yards; 8.3-inch howitzers can safely throw shells containing \$41 pounds of wet gun cotton to a distance of 4.374 yards, and thin steel sheels containing 44 pounds to a distance of 3.827 yards; 2.5-inch howitzers can safely throw shells containing 15.4 pounds of wet gun cotton to a distance of 4.374 yards; 11-inch howitzers can safely throw shells containing 15 and distance of 7.327 yards, A compound armor plate. 4.7 inches thick, backed by 21 inches of oak, has been repeatedly perforated by steel shells charged with wet gun cotton and fired with 48 pounds of gunpowder from an 8.3-inch gun, with an initial velocity of shout 1.400 feet oer second; and the delay-action fuzes successfully caused explosion behind the target after the projectile had traversed the plate and backing.

"Both Germany and Italy have officially adouted wet gun cotton as a bursting charge for shells, after trials that are generally admitted to prove the liring of forty-eight pounds to a distance of 3.300 yards to be safe; and I rance has done the same with melinite in charges of seventy-three pounds, fired to a like distance. Indeed, absolute safety in fring shells charged with wet gun cotton from high-power guns with an initial velocity of 2.000 feet per second is claimed."

Declaring, accordingly, that the problem of throwing destructive charges of high exploration.

Declaring, accordingly, that the problem of throwing destructive charges of high explosives from powder guns" must be regarded as solved." Col. Abbot concludes that the chief effect will be felt in siege operations against fortified places. Aiready we find scores of armored turrets, either of the Mougin tyre, made at St. Chamend, or of the Schumann tyre, made at the Gruson works, under construction in turope, with a view to resist attack by projectiles containing high explosives. This is Commandant Mougin's proposal:

"Two turrets rise from an immense moneight

Commandant Mougin's propositi:

"Two turrets rise from an immense monolith of concrete, which covers interior casements. The only extrance is from the rear, by an underground galiery terminating in a shaft closed by a horizontal from shield. Flanking fire is had from rapid-firing gains raised and lowered through holes in the concrete roof."

What will be the general effect of all these changes? Obviously, in the first place, infantry fire will become an destructive that a distribute the concrete roof. changes? Obviously, in the first place, infantry fire will become so destructive that a dispersed order of attack must take the place of masses or even of deviloyed lines. The terrible storm of missiles possible with the magazine gun, and the greater range, penetration, and accuracy, demand this change. Smokeless nowder will also enhance the horrors of the battlefield by no longer furnishing "a merciful veil between modern armies in the death struggle." Junior officers and individual sobilers will have a greater responsibility than in the days of close formation, and a Captain may have as wide a space to look after me at olone did formerly. Finally, Col. Abbot holds that it is an error to suppose that war will be medo impossible by the very destructiveness of the new appliances, which will overcome human endurance. The real result will be rather to increase the importance of discipline and experience, and the thoroughly trained soldier will accordingly have a great advantage of the embattled farmer.